

POLITICAL SCIENCE 500
INTRODUCTION TO POLICY AND GOVERNANCE
FALL SEMESTER 2006

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Office Hours: by appointment

Class Time: Tu, 6-8:30
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This course is a required core course offering a comprehensive survey of the scholarly literature on policy and governance. For the last several years it has been taught by Dennis Judd and this syllabus reflect his work on developing the course as well as some of my thoughts. We will emphasis reading leading theoretical works in the field. The writing assignments are designed to require students to understand and synthesize what they have read and to begin to think about contributing new disciplinary research.

A curriculum devoted to the study of policy and governance is about governments and what they do and do not do. Of course, governments operate within nation states, societies, and political economies and these entities may influence and be influenced by government policies. This is the big diverse landscape for which the discipline of political science is primarily responsible. The political scientist's job is to identify and develop good ideas about this domain and to modify or weed out bad ideas. There are a variety of strategies or approaches to doing this. Our goal is to learn about some of the major ideas and approaches and to began to identify their strengths and weaknesses. In other words, our goal is to provide beginning PhD students with a foundation for taking more advanced courses in our curriculum as well as contributing to the discipline of political science.

No matter how much is assigned, however, in the space of one semester one can only get a running start towards understanding the relevant literature. If you are in the Ph.D. program, you will have to do much more reading in subsequent courses and on your own to achieve an adequate familiarity with the literature.

Ground Rules.

This course is run in a seminar format, composed of a mixture of brief presentations by me and a considerable amount of discussion involving every student in the class. No one will be allowed to sit silently for an entire semester, and I may call on anyone at any time to comment on the readings. Therefore it is essential that you be prepared to participate at all times. To this end, I ask you to observe a few ground rules:

(1) **Class attendance is required.** If you must miss a class for any reason, please call or e-mail in advance. If you know in advance that you may miss any classes during the semester, see me as soon as possible. An excessive number of missed classes (in fact, more than three, even if excused) may be cause for a failing grade in the class.

If you are a student with a disability requiring some accommodation for participation in this class, please let me know. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (312-413-0123).

(2) You are required to read and be able to thoughtfully discuss the course material assigned for each week's class, according to the schedule outlined in the syllabus.

Students are required to **bring to each class a 2-page (double-spaced) synthesis of the readings assigned for each class.** Class participation counts for a substantial 20% of the course grade; this grade will reflect the quality of the mini-papers and quality of class preparation and discussion.

Course Requirements.

In addition to the weekly mini-papers, **three essays** synthesizing and pushing ahead of the course readings are required. The first paper accounts for 20% of the course grade, the next two for 30% each (this gives less weight to the first paper, which gives you an opportunity to learn what's expected without a big penalty). All students will be required to **present and lead a discussion about their research paper** near the end of the course. The grade for this presentation will be factored into the grade on the final paper. At least one week in advance but normally much more, detailed instructions for the essays will be distributed, which will be graded according to clarity, thoughtfulness, comprehensiveness, and originality. It is our practice to allow all students one rewrite of each paper. If I hand a paper back to you marked "rewrite", you may, if you choose, decline to do a rewrite and ask me to assign the paper a grade. In that event, the grade is final.

Assignments must be handed in on time, on the dates indicated in the syllabus, unless you have obtained explicit permission from me in advance. You are free to be late, as long as you understand that assignments handed in late will be graded down one full grade per day after the due date. Being late just isn't worth it.

Our Free Advise.

We ask you to pay meticulous attention to the writing and production of the papers (no first drafts, and use spell check). The essays should be treated as miniature research papers that synthesize the assigned readings, plus whatever additional materials you may feel you need to read to fully understand the material. A reminder: the web is a wonderful resource for research, but especially at the graduate level it would be impossible to write a competent paper on any subject solely through web sources; a great many books and articles are still not available electronically.

At all costs avoid the reality or appearance of plagiarism; place quotation marks around quoted material, and provide citations for any idea, major concept, or data/information from a source. Intentional plagiarism on any assignment could be cause for failure without a rewrite option. A second plagiarized assignment will result in failing the course, and it could possibly jeopardize your graduate student career. Remember: A search of google.com quickly reveals the use of plagiarized material (as little as a significant phrase taken from a source). So please take care not to plagiarize!

Readings.

The majority of the required readings for this course are included in the books available in the bookstore. I apologize, in advance, for the amount of money these books cost. To save money you should consider asking me to put at least some of the books on reserve in the library. In addition, you may wish to order books on-line. All readings listed except those specifically designated as "recommended" must be read by the date indicated. Make every effort to read or at least look at readings designated as "recommended;" this is your call. In deciding about whether to buy books, keep in mind

that most or all of these books will be needed when you study for comprehensive exams and prepare to teach your own courses.

The following books are available in the bookstore, and are *required reading*:

Deborah Stone, *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*, rev. ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2001. Paper

Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets: The World's Political Economic Systems* New York: Basic Books, 1977. Paper

Frank R. Baumgartner and Bryan D. Jones, *Agendas and Instability in American Politics* (University of Chicago Press 1993). Paper

Bryan D. Jones and Frank R. Baumgartner, *The Politics of Attention* (University of Chicago Press 2006).

John Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, & Public Policies* (Longman 2003 rev. ed.).

Charles Wolf, *Markets and governments*, MIT Paper

Ira Katznelson and Helen Milner, Editors, *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*. of Columbia University, 2002. Paper

Robert Bates, et.al., *Analytic Narratives*, Princeton University Press, 1998.

Benjamin Page and James Simmons, *What Government Can Do* (University of Chicago Press, 2000).

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER: The bookstore returns books to distributors at the end of the 7th week. If you wait to buy books until after that date you may have to do so through Amazon.com or through a special book order. It's your call; just remember that assignments must be read on time whether or not you've purchased the book.

Copies of all or any of the books will be placed on reserve if requested. Believe it or not, many of the personal copies I've put on reserve over the years have come back to me marked up. I shouldn't have to ask, but please do not write marginal notes in a book placed on reserve.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNED READINGS

I Introduction

August 29.

Introduction to the class. What is policy? Governance? What is their context? Normative v descriptive knowledge; conflict and competitive ideas; reciprocal relationships and the unraveling problem; Culture and

identity, power and markets, law and institutions. Time or path dependence and other units of analysis. Ways of Putting Things Back Together. Individual v collective or community.

II. Some Contextual and Normative Issues

September 5.

Political Economy. Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets, Parts I to V*;
Charles Wolf, Chapter 2.

September 12.

A Critique of “Rational” Policy Making Read: Deborah Stone, *Policy Paradox*, Parts I, II, and III.

September 19.

Some Famous Articles. Herbert Simon, “Theories of Bounded Rationality,” in H. Simon, *Models of Bounded Rationality* vol. 2 Cambridge: MIT Press, 1982, pp. 408-423
Charles Lindblom, “The Science of Muddling Through,” *Public Administration Review* 14 (Spring 1959): 79-88.

Milton Friedman,

Graham Allison, *The Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*. Boston: Little Brown, 197. *APSR* 1969.

Theodore Lowi, *World Politics*, 1964.

Leavitt and Dubner, *Freakonomic*, Chapter .

September 26.

Page and Simmons on Equality. *What Government Can Do, Chapters 1 to 3*, skim 4 to 8, read 9. Look at the topics and abstracts of papers from Yale Symposium on Distributive Politics at:
<http://www.yale.edu/polisci/info/conferences/DistributivePolitics/abstracts>

*****FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29. FIRST ESSAY DUE*****

III. Policy Processes: Problem Identification and Agenda Setting

October 3.

John Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, & Public Policies*, second edition. Logrolling and agenda setting from Mueller. Peter Bachrach and Morris Baratz, “The Two Faces of Power,” *American Political Science Review* 56 (December 1962): 942-962.

October 10.

Baumgartner and Jones, *Agendas & Instability in American Politics*, chs.1-12 and Appendix A (As in the assignment for October 3, you should go on the web to examine data used for this book. Go to: University of

Washington, Center for American Politics and Public Policy; then click on Policy Agendas Project.)

October 17.

Jones and Baumgartner, *The Politics of Attention*. (In connection with this reading, you should go on the web and look at the data used for this book. Go to: University of Washington, Center for American Politics and Public Policy; then click on Policy Agendas Project. Surf this site; it contains data on a great variety of policy issues.)

IV Policy Processes Choosing Among Alternative Policy Proposals

October 24.

Preference-induced equilibria. Riker page, maybe from 1980 *APSR*; Leavitt and Dubner Chapter on real estate salesmen, school teachers, etc.; one dimensional spatial models. Mark Schlesinger and Richard Lau, "The Meaning and Measure of Policy Metaphors," *American Political Science Review* 94 (September 2000): 611-626 (packet).

October 31.

Institution-Induced Equilibria. The U.S. Senate Lee and Oppenheimer chapter. Bates, et al *Analytic Narratives*, Robert Bates, CH. 5 "The International Coffee Organization: An International Institution;" Gates, et al, *Analytic Narratives*, Ch. 4, Barry Weingast, "Political Stability and the Civil War: Institutions, Commitment and American Democracy."

November 7.

Collective Action Problems, Prisoner's Dilemmas, and the Race to the Bottom. Mancur Olson, from 190 packet., Paul Peterson from the Price of Federalism. Also from 190 packet.

*****FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10. SECOND ESSAY DUE*****

November 14.

Path dependence. Paul Pierson and Theda Skocpol, *Historical Institutionalism in Contemporary Political Science*, in Katznelson and Milner, 693-721; and Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, *The Study of American Political Development*, in Milner and Katznelson, p 722-754; and Avner Greif, "Self

Enforcing Political Systems and Economic Growth: Late
Medieval Genoa.” Chapter 1, in Bates, et al.

V. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

November 21.

Student presentations and discussion I. (Readings to be placed on reserve two weeks in advance.)

November 28.

Student presentations and discussion II. (Readings to be placed on reserve two weeks in advance.)

*****FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1. THIRD ESSAY DUE*****

Make copies of:

Charles Lindblom, “The Science of Muddling Through,” *Public Administration Review* 14 (Spring 1959): 79-88.

Peter Bachrach and Morris Baratz, “The Two Faces of Power,” *American Political Science Review* 56 (December 1962): 942-962.

1962 two faces; 1963 decisions and non-decisions both apsr

Graham Allison, *The Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*. APSR

Herbert Simon, "Theories of Bounded Rationality," in H. Simon, Models of Bounded Rationality vol. 2 Cambridge: MIT Press, 1982, pp. 408-423

Mark Schlesinger and Richard Lau, "The Meaning and Measure of Policy Metaphors," American Political Science Review 94 (September 2000): 611-626

Levitt and Dubner

Olson from 190 packet

Riker stuff

Lee and Oppenheimer

Milton Friedman's chapter on positive economics>—try to keep this from becoming just about individual decision making. But if it does make sure the collective view of Page and Shapiro and some other views get in.

Is there any place for super statutes here

Peterson from 190 packet

Lowi